The waveform of the lubricant pressure shown in FIG. 3 is the waveform which the lubricant pressure describes when the parallel distributor operates normally. When the parallel distributor or a pipe connected with it is clogged or has a break or the like, the lubricant pressure describes a waveform different from this waveform in normal operation.

For example, if a pipe behind the quantity measuring valve 1 has a break, even when the quantity measuring valve 1 operates normally, the quantity measuring valve 2 does not operate normally due to the break. As shown in FIG. 4, the lubricant pressure detected by the pressure sensor 16 does not increase, and describes a waveform different from the waveform in normal operation. When there is only one or so break and it is small, the lubricant pressure may increase though it takes longer. Even in this case, the waveform of the lubricant pressure is different from that in normal operation.

For example, if a pipe behind the quantity measuring valve 1 is clogged, the quantity measuring valve 1 operates normally but the quantity measuring valve 2 does not due to the clogged part. As shown in FIG. 5, the lubricant pressure increases rapidly. When the quantity measuring valve 2 operates normally, the lubricant pressure should increase moderately. However, since there is a clogged part, lubricant cannot flow forward and the lubricant pressure increases rapidly.

Thus, the waveform of the lubricant pressure, as shown in FIG. 3, which is obtained in normal operation is used as reference data. Considering that the waveform varies in dependence on the temperature of lubricant and the other factors, a reference range may be set on the reference data. If the detected lubricant pressure is not within the reference range, it is determined that there is an abnormality in a lubricant feeding passage of the parallel distributor. For example, a reference range between the two waveforms obtained by adding $+\Delta P$ and $-\Delta P'$ to the reference data (waveform of the lubricant pressure